



TASK FORCE RED DEVIL

1-504TH PIR, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM NEWSLETTER

ISSUE I -- 1 NOVEMBER 2005



BC/CSM CORNER:



To the members of the Red Devil Family I would like to begin by saying: "Shoney Bash" to all of our family and friends out there both at Fort Bragg and abroad! This is the typical greeting you would receive from our Kurdish allies, who have received us with open arms and amazing hospitality. This will be the first of many letters by the Command Staff and paratroopers of the 1-504th Parachute Infantry Regiment to keep you all updated on our mission here in Iraq.

To begin, the Task Force safely arrived in country and has quickly adapted to our new environment. In a short period of time all elements of the Task Force have come together to form a homogeneous team and resultantly demonstrated our ability to successfully accomplish our given mission as a Multinational, Inter-agency and Joint Force.

Our first task was to establish and firm a lasting relationship with our Kurdish neighbors and comrades in arms. To this end, we are well on our way to becoming official Kurdish citizens or at least coinsures of Kurdish cuisine...

After we arrive we were renamed from Task Force 1-504 PIR to Task Force 33, which represents our specific location in the region. Additionally, the significance of this transition is to establish a legacy Task Force which will carry on the proud traditions of the United States Army upon our departure from this great land.

You should all be proud of your paratroopers. They are all well trained, highly motivated, and performing amazingly well. I am proud of the work they do everyday and I want you all to know that they are representing your

families and our nation with honor. There is no doubt in my mind that we will be successful in our mission here and that we will be home soon. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers for you are all in ours...

Red Devil 6

First and foremost I would like to quickly introduce myself. My name is Klaus Meckenstock and I am the new Command Sergeants Major (CSM) for the Red Devils. My wife Carleen and I are not strangers to the Airborne world we are proud to be part of the Airborne Red Devil Family again. I started my military career as a Red Devil on 28 April 1983 and have served a total of 12 years of my 18 years of airborne status as a Red Devil.

About the soldiers, we are all settled at Ft. Suse and we're diligently improving our standard of living daily. We have AFN satellite in our TV room and Dining Facility to follow the sports/news and the Mini Airborne PX officially opened three days ago. If all goes well, our MWR Phone/Computer center will follow shortly. We didn't forget about the Army family but the process of building up our location is slow. Always remember "Rome wasn't built in one day" please be patient. Our new kitchen appliances arrived today so our kitchen to cook home cooked Army meals should be up and running soon. The motivation is high and our soldiers are executing their mission expertly. Again, I am proud to be the CSM of this fine bunch of soldiers and it is truly a fine day to be in the double "A" Strike Hold!

CSM Meckenstock

A CO



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Dear families and friends. During the last month at Fort Suse, Alpha Company has been busy establishing the defense of the facility. In that time the Company has been manning security positions as well as conducting local area security patrols (long walks). Throughout this whole operation all of the soldiers constantly work alongside the local "Peshmerga" (host nation's soldiers) who have been guarding the Fort since renovations began. By working with the "Peshmerga" some of the Alpha Bone Troopers have acquired and mastered basic "Kurdish" dialect as well as taken a liking to the local Tchai tea.

During the area patrols, Alpha Company has been establishing relationships with the local farmers scattered throughout the villages in the surrounding area. Every patrol is greeted with warm smiles and a friendly welcome. Their schools need help in the form of school supplies and toys. If any of you would like to help, please feel free to send us some inexpensive items for the kids. They will greatly appreciate it.

When not on "guard shift", our Troopers have been putting in extensive manpower hours to improve the guard positions through the construction of force protection measures and establishing effective communications network in each position.

The living conditions have steadily improved since the Company arrived at Fort Suse. After a few difficult days, the Paratroopers have mastered the local plumbing and can now effectively utilize and repair the Company's toilets. Fort Suse also has a fully equipped gym as well as a 3 mile run route for physical training overlooking the "majestic" Peramagrum mountain range...The views are great and the air is fairly clean. The Post Exchange (PX room) just recently opened and the rest of the MWR package should be operational shortly to include phone and internet access for us to communicate regularly with all of you. As for the food, the Dining Facility is feeding two "hot meals" a day with cold cuts for lunch and even one awesome "steak night" last week.

Our Alpha Company Paratroopers are taking great pride in both their unit and mission and have been performing excellently on all their tasks. All of us are working seven days a week at an average of 12-14 hours a day...It is hard work, but we see the progress at the end of the day or night. The Company's future operations include the constant improvement of the facility as well as getting to know the local population better to help them in anyway the Task Force can. So sleep well tonight, Alpha Company, the Task Force's frontline defense force is on point.

Congratulations to the families of SGT Bennett, SGT Dellinger, and SPC McCurdy for their awesome reenlisting ceremony this past week.

Know that we are making a difference, and we think of our loved ones constantly...Remember to write us often, mail arrives now twice a week! Whoo Hooo!!!

A6.

B CO



Bushmasters strikes again! Congratulations to SSG Jenkins, SPC Schaafsma and SGT Clemons for reenlisting. When ask what they were going to do with their tax free bonuses, SSG Jenkins replied "I'm going to Disneyland!" SPC Schaafsma wanted a new Harley and SGT Clemons replied "I'm spending every dime on myself." It must be the thin air up here going to their heads! I am certain their spouses will insist on them spending their bonuses on something more appropriate when they get home. The rest of Bravo Company soldiers are doing great. They are keeping busy, eating plenty of good chow and getting plenty of rest. The phone lines are up, email is functional and AFN is broadcasting! Hooahh!!!

Bravo 6!

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C CO



Well, we've finally arrived at our destination in Iraq. I'd like to thank all the family and friends of Charlie Rock for all their support. Morale in the company is extremely high. We have a challenging mission but like all paratroopers, we will succeed. Operations are currently underway. We are highly trained, highly motivated, and well prepared, and we will succeed in accomplishing the mission with honor and integrity.

For many of us, it's our first deployment however, the leadership in the Company and the Battalion as a whole is unmatched. We are all concerned with the well being and safety of all the paratroopers in the Task Force. I for one, thank you for entrusting your paratrooper to my care and I will do my best as a leader to ensure mission success and the safe return of your loved one.

SFC Ortiz received a Brigade Coin from the 18th MP BDE CDR. SSG Martinez and SGT Torres both re-enlisted. SPC McConnell was promoted to SGT. By the time you receive this, CPL St John will have been promoted to SGT, SGT Dyer promoted to SSG, SGT Nogueros promoted to SSG, and

Please keep the care packages coming as it's a great morale booster and keep all the paratroopers of the Task Force in your prayers until we arrive safely back at Fort Bragg, NC.

-CPT Deale

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D CO



By the time you read this, the Paratroopers of Delta Company will have collectively traveled over 20,000 miles of roadways in Iraq. Our initial push from Baghdad to Fort Suse was an exhausting 12 hour trip, but was executed flawlessly by the members of 1,3,4 and 5th platoons. When we arrived, we realized that the area in and around Ft Suse is a beautiful landscape of farmlands and jagged mountain ranges. The next day, we quickly settled into a daily rhythm that included regular convoys, maintenance of our vehicles, working out and of course the "occasional" video game. Despite being out of communication with the outside world for about 3 weeks, the "Dawgs" held up well and we hope that all the families and loved ones fared the same. As I am sure you are all wondering, we currently have limited communications abilities but we should have e-mail and phones up any day now. We have been receiving mail regularly, so please keep the mail coming. The men really appreciate the letters and packages. Living conditions are also getting better daily as our chow hall starts getting better food in, the electricity stays on all day, and we have more water to shower with. While most soldiers would have complained about the living conditions, the Paratroopers of Delta Company took it all in stride. Rest assured that your loved ones are safe, living comfortably, and



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ready for any mission that may come our way. Included is a picture of SSG Horiski's truck as it travels through downtown Kirkuk on a route clearance mission.

HHC



Dear Friends and Family of Hammer Company,

Greetings from Fort Suse, Iraq. We hope that this letter finds all of you doing well and in good health. The last four weeks have been incredibly busy, but you would be proud of the great work that your loved ones in the Hammer Company have accomplished. We were happy to get out of Kuwait and begin the journey north to our final destination. Since our arrival, the men have been busy at work in preparation to begin our mission. The Engineers have done phenomenal work throughout the Fort. They have built nearly everything one can imagine and they have also disposed of some old Iraqi mortar rounds discovered on the camp. Everyone here is grateful for their expertise. The Support and Transportation Platoon has already covered thousands of miles of Iraqi highways moving supplies and bringing mail. Whenever they return from their convoys, there are anxious Red Devils standing by waiting in anticipation for a letter or a care package from home. They are the envy of the Task Force because they are not bound by the walls of the fort. The Dining Facility here is nearly complete. We have all enjoyed the outstanding food that SSG Higgins and his section have prepared in the MKT's for us. For many, the food here is the highlight of their day. The other night, we ate salmon and rice pilaf. The medical platoon has teamed up with 25 medics and doctors from the 101st Airborne Division. They are providing the fort with top notch medical care

and enjoying the friendly rivalry that they share with their Air Assault counterparts. If you haven't heard, our Fire Support Element has joined the Red Devil family permanently. Due to the ongoing transformation that the 82nd is undergoing, the Field Artillery Batteries will now be task organized as part of the maneuver brigades, which means that CPT Spear and his men are now permanent members of the 1-504. Our mortar and scout platoons have also been busy establishing their battle positions and continuing to train. As always, the staff continues to plan and coordinate in order to keep this place moving in the right direction.

While we have been very busy, the men have found intermittent breaks where they can play a few video games or watch a movie. Due to our varying responsibilities in Hammer Company, some have been busier than others. Our MWR center will be complete soon with 20 computers, 8 phones, a movie room, and a mini PX. Until then, the men have access to about 10 phones and computers that they can contact you with. I apologize for the long break in communication. I hope that you have emerged in good spirits knowing that we are all safe and looking forward to more regular contact with you.

The men are in good spirits and ready to do the job so that we can get home to our loved ones. You can be sure that you are on our minds and in our prayers constantly. Please continue to send packages and mail as they are a huge boost to morale and greatly appreciated. We miss you all very much.

Sincerely Yours,

Seth Cunneen
CPT, IN

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Family and friends of 1-504th PIR,

As you read this newsletter, I am sure you could see how busy this Task Force has been, but I assure you that it doesn't do justice to the amount of work these paratroopers have accomplished since they have been in country. I truly consider it an honor to be deployed again with America's best, America's Guard of Honor!

Thinking about this deployment, I recall the words of Abraham Lincoln. He spoke these words after the death of his son and following a recent defeat of the Union Army in Shiloh in 1862.

If I were not sustained by the prayers of God's people, I could not endure the constant pressure. I should have given up hope for success... You know I am not a very hopeful temperament. I can take hold of a thing and hold on a good

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while. By trusting God for help, and believing that our cause is just and right, I firmly believe we shall conquer in the end... It has pleased Almighty God to place me in my present position, and looking to Him for wisdom and divine guidance, I must work out my destiny as best I can.

As a Task Force, we ask for all to pray for that same sustaining power that Abraham Lincoln received.

As a Task Force, we have two chapel worship services on Sunday and a Bible Study on Wednesday evening. During our time here, we will continue to offer spiritual support for each other. I know you will continue to lift us all up in your prayers as we continue to accomplish this unique mission. Until the next Chaplain's Corner...

Grace and Peace,
Chaplain Bowersock

NOTES:

- LES's are being screened on 1 NOV 05 to verify soldiers are getting appropriate pay. All issues with pay will be handled in country.
- 1-504 PIR would like to give a special thanks to our Civilian Project Manager from ECCI, Louis Perez Jr., for his outstanding support of the Red Devils.

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